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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1965

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1965)

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Clerk and Chief Financial Officer : R.A. Davies

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Medical Officer of Health,

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LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

L. ALLEN, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

2, Mill Street,

KINGTON.

(Telephone: Kington 202)

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1965, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

I have little comment to make on the statistics presented in the report, but have included in the epidemology section a note on the subject of epidemic vomiting in schools.

I would like to thank Mr. Allen for his help and cooperation during the past year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Estimated mid-year home population	1,910
Average number of persons per acre	2.2
Number of inhabited houses	685
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	0.8
Average number of persons per house	2.8
Rateable Value	£242
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£61,550

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	16	15	31
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	18	17	35

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.13	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D. (Crude)	19.3	15.2	16.5	14.3	17.4
" " (Adjusted)	21.8	17.2	18.6	15.5	18.8
England and Wales	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.0	17.4

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Kington U.D. .. 11.4
England and Wales .. Figure not yet available (1964: 7.2)

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D.	Nil	Nil	31.3	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	15.7	16.3	17.2	18.1	19.1

INFANT DEATH RATES

Early Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. * (1964: 12.0)

Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. * (1964: 13.8)

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. 26.9

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1

*figures not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATES (Continued)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D.	(Total	28.6	68.9	64.5	Nil	31.2
	(Legitimate	Nil	80.0	68.9	Nil	32.2
	(Illegitimate	250.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	19.0	19.9	21.1	21.6	21.6
	(Legitimate	*	19.4	20.8	21.3	21.2
	(Illegitimate	*	26.3	26.0	27.2	25.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. * (1964: 0.25)

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	19	13	32

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 0.59	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D. (Crude)	16.8	14.1	21.3	13.8	11.4
" " (Adjusted)	9.9	9.0	13.6	10.5	7.0
England and Wales	11.5	11.3	12.2	11.9	11.9

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	2	1	3

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D.	1.57	2.09	3.19	3.17	3.26
England and Wales	*	2.20	2.17	2.18	2.15

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	11	10	21

* figures not yet available

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D.	10.99	8.90	14.89	7.41	5.98
England and Wales	*	5.73	5.22	6.14	6.10

Respiratory Disease (exclusing Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	3	1	4

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Kington U.D.	2.09	1.05	0.53	1.06	1.09
England and Wales	*	1.37	1.71	1.57	1.60

*figures not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	1	2
Coronary disease, angina	5	3	8
Other heart disease	2	4	6
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
Total:	19	13	32

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - KINGTON U.D.

Disease	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Whooping Cough	-	5	-	-	-
Measles	7	27	33	-	52
Scarlet Fever	3	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	1

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	5	70	29	13	126
Measles	525	609	507	337	583
Scarlet Fever	12	8	12	9	11
Erysipelas	3	2	3	5	3
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	-	-	2	2	1
Post-Infectious	-	-	1	2	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	8	13	15	18
Dysentery	6	3	7	1	62
Food Poisoning	8	14	7	5	11
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	2	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	8	10	9	7	9
Non-Pulmonary	3	3	1	2	2
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	-	1	-

EPIDEMIC VOMITING IN SCHOOL

At the end of the year there occurred at the Lady Hawkins Bilateral School one of those curious epidemics of vomiting and abdominal pain which were prevalent in England at the time.

Though no infecting organism has ever been found in these outbreaks it is probable that the attack is initiated by some sort of virus, which affects a small number of children almost simultaneously. The dramatic nature of the sudden illness of perhaps a quarter of a class tends to induce a sympathetic mimicry in the other children and very soon whole classes are incapacitated. Press publicity unfortunately tends to exacerbate the problem, and it is noticable that once this has been explained to the editors of local newspapers and their cooperation in ceasing to make sensational reports obtained, the 'epidemic' ceases forthwith. This is not to deny that there is an original organic background to the problem, but that certain groups of children are very susceptible to a form of mass hysteria. These 'epidemics' are found to occur in adolescent girls; I have never heard of such an occurrence in an infants school.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1965

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	126	180	82	51	27	24	2	8	3	-	1	21	525
Scarlet Fever	-	-	7	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	12
Erysipelas	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Acute Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	8
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	8
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.14	0.27
Measles	14.22	10.67
Scarlet Fever	0.33	0.56
Erysipelas	0.08	0.04
Acute Pneumonia	0.08	0.17
Dysentery	0.16	0.55
Food Poisoning	0.22	0.10
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.22	0.28
Non-Pulmonary	0.08	0.05

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1964.	7	6	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1965.	7	6	-	-

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1961	1	19	-	-
1962	-	18	-	1
1963	-	13	-	-
1964	1	13	-	-
1965	-	13	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

WATER SUPPLY

Source - The sources of mains water are the spring at Crooked Well, Kington, augmented as and when needed from the nearby borehole or from another mains supply which feeds the surrounding rural area. Some properties in the outlying area continue to be supplied from private wells or springs.

Quantity - The mains water supply has remained ample for the needs of Kington.

Quality - The quality of the water has remained satisfactory throughout the year. The samples were taken from various premises in the town.

Number of samples taken from the mains supply	Results of analysis	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
8	8	Nil

No. of houses supplied by public water mains direct to house: 657

No. of houses supplied by public water mains by means of standpipes: 4

No. of houses supplied by private undertakings: 6

No. of houses supplied by wells and springs: 8

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal - The sewage disposal plant consists of screens/sedimentation tanks/biological filters/humus tanks. Sludge is pumped to sludge digestion tanks for further treatment. Sludge drying beds have been installed but not used to date. Liquid sludge is being disposed of on surrounding farm land.

Following receipt of an adverse report on a sample of effluent taken at the sewage disposal works, the views of the consulting engineers were invited. They made reference to the effluent from the laundry having a detrimental effect on the settlement in the sedimentation tanks and also suggested that with the closure of the gasworks, the balance of the effluent at the sewage disposal works had altered.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE (Continued)

Drainage - Regarding the laying of a relief sewer at the lower end of Bridge Street to alleviate flooding (Referred to in last year's annual report) the Council arranged for plans and specification to be drawn up and tenders invited. The Wye River Authority gave consent to a new discharge providing suitable steps were taken to prevent the discharge of gross solids into the river. Application has now been made for loan consent.

No. of houses connected to the public sewer:	584
No. of houses connected to satisfactory private disposal works:	58
No. of houses using chemical or pail closets with satisfactory disposal:	33
No. of houses using chemical or pail closets with unsatisfactory disposal:	Nil

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained from properties in the area. Business properties in the centre of the town have their refuse collected twice weekly. A side loading collection vehicle is used. A kerbside collection is operated and carried out by direct labour.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on the old sewage works contact beds. It has been suggested that another layer of refuse could be tipped on top of the existing layer. If this is done it will have to be very strictly controlled and provision made for an ample quantity of soil to cover the top and sides of this tipping area.

In view of the shortage of tipping space left, the Council have investigated the possibility of pulverizing refuse and installing a new incinerator, but it was felt that the cost of installation and maintenance of such new equipment would be too expensive for Kington Urban District on its own.

Enquiries were made in respect of further land for use as a controlled tip and the Council eventually decided to advertise for a suitable site.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are now two swimming pools in Kington. One is sited in the grounds of Kington Bilateral School, and the other, a learner swimming pool, is in the grounds of Kington Primary School.

Samples of water were taken from both of these swimming pools and submitted for analysis. They were found to be highly satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

A treatment service is provided by the Council to both business and private premises. One of the Council's employees acts as part time rodent operator. A major infestation of rats occurred at the Council's refuse tip during the autumn but this was dealt with expeditiously. Treatments were also carried out following the occurrence of some minor infestations.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance - At the beginning of the year there were 36 sub-standard houses in the district. A number of these houses were occupied by elderly people, who were not making full use of the whole of the dwellings. Most of these houses were represented to the Council in terms of section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and the Council agreed to accept undertakings in respect of some of these houses to the effect that they would not be re-let once they had been vacated by their existing occupiers, until the Council were satisfied that they had been rendered fit for human habitation. To date one dwelling has been demolished, one closing order has been made, one cottage has been taken over and used for other purposes, and three dwellings have been vacated following receipt of an undertaking not to re-let.

Private house building - Five new dwellings were built during the year. There were no private houses under construction at the end of the year.

Council house building - A layout plan has been approved for the proposed erection of 66 Council houses and 49 private houses.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary - No applications were received in respect of discretionary improvement grants.

Number of grants and amounts approved:

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
No. of grants approved:	4	6	1	2	Nil
Amount of grants approved:	£985	£1522	£90	£800	Nil

Standard - Five applications were received for standard improvement grants and all were approved.

Number of grants approved:

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
4	5	8	3	5

In addition, approval was received from the Ministry in respect of improvements to the Recreation Ground Cottage (held in trust by the Council) and improvements to six more Council houses were completed. There are now only six Council houses to be improved to the full five point standard.

CARAVAN SITES

There is only one licenced caravan site in the area and this is for an individual residential caravan. This site is satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION

The main food premises in the town can be summarised as follows:

Dairy	1
Slaughterhouse	1
Butchers	4
Bakehouses	3
Public Houses	12
Cafe, Stores, etc.	21
	42

Number of inspections: 80

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Section 16

Premises registered under this section are as follows:

Storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream -	10
Preparation or manufacture of sausage meat -	4
	14

Number of inspections: 28

During the year one bakehouse closed down and one property stopped selling ice-cream, although another premises was registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

A few years ago there were six bakeries in operation in Kington. This has been reduced to three, and it is expected that another bakery will close down during the coming year. This has been due to the vast amount of pre-packed bread which is now available for sale on the market.

Slaughterhouse

Only one small private slaughterhouse is in use in the district. The licence in respect of same was renewed for another year.

Meat Inspection and Condemnation

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	2	90	-	35	172
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	6	-	2	5
Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases or part condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The reason for condemnation of sheep's carcase was due to extensive and severe bruising, whilst some parts of organs of carcases condemned were affected with either liver flukes, cysts or abscesses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS - Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	17	17	1	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	20	20	-	-

Case in which defect was found and remedied: Want of Cleanliness.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Existing facilities are sited as follows:

Ladies and Gents. Conveniences in the Recreation Ground.
Ladies and Gents. Conveniences in the town centre.

These conveniences have washing facilities with the exception of the Gents. conveniences in the town centre, but it has been agreed that a washbasin should be installed.